IN THE CLAIMS: Please amend Claims 4, 5 and 9 as shown below. Please cancel Claims 1-3 and 6. All of the remaining claims are reproduced below for the convenience of the Examiner. The amended claims with underlining and brackets are also included as an attachment hereto.

Sub B'

4. (Once amended) A method of manufacturing an integrated bell connection for a joint of polyethylene pipe, the method comprising the steps of:

A1

providing a rotatably driven mandrel having a substantially cylindrical end section corresponding to the internal diameter of a bell connection to be formed, the mandrel having an outer extent and an inner extent, the mandrel having a locating area for an elastomeric gasket on an external surface thereof;

positioning an elastomeric gasket on the external surface of the mandrel at the locating area thereof, the locating area being between the inner and outer extents of the mandrel;

forming a bell connection about the mandrel and suitably located gasket by extruding a melt profile made of polyethylene onto the mandrel beginning adjacent the inner extent of the mandrel and spirally winding the melt profile around the cylindrical end section of the mandrel and around the gasket such that adjacent windings of the melt profile make contact;

cooling the bell connection thus formed;

removing the bell connection and gasket from the mandre;

not pos. recited

[whereby a pre-stressed and pre-located integral gasket is provided within the socket end of a polyethylene pipe which is securely retained within a receiving groove which is integrally formed about the gasket during the manufacturing step.]

where?

5. (Once amended) A method of manufacturing an integral gasket and bell connection for a joint of polyethylene pipe, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a rotatably driven mandrel having a substantially cylindrical end section corresponding to the internal diameter of a bell connection to be formed, the mandrel having an outer extent and an inner extent, the mandrel having a locating area for an elastomeric gasket on an external surface thereof;

positioning an elastomeric gasket on the external surface of the mandrel at the locating area thereof, the locating area being between the inner and outer extents of the mandrel;

A1

forming a bell connection about the mandrel and suitably located gasket by extruding a melt profile made of polyethylene onto the mandrel beginning adjacent the inner extent of the mandrel and spirally winding the melt profile around the cylindrical end section of the mandrel and around the gasket such that adjacent windings of the melt profile make contact;

terminating the extruding step while continuing to rotate the mandrel;

spraying cooling water over the bell end connection thus formed;

cutting a free end of the connection with a rotating knife;and

removing the bell end connection and integral gasket from the mandrel;

whereby a pre-stressed and pre-located integral gasket is provided within the socket end of a bell connection of a joint of polyethylene pipe which is securely retained within a receiving groove which is integrally formed about the gasket during the manufacturing step. ) Same as Before

7. The method of claim 5, wherein the mandrel is heated to at least about 100 degrees C. before the

melt profile is extruded.

8. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of subjecting the extruded melt profile to a weak mechanical loading by means of a rotating roll for intensifying a welding-together of the contacting melt profile windings.

Sub B2
A2

9. (Once amended) The method of claim 5, ~~wherein~~ the rotating knife comprises a freely rotating circular blade ~~which~~ is pressed against the polyethylene of the bell end connection for cutting the free end of the connection.

10. The method of claim 5, further comprising the steps of:

removing the bell connection from the mandrel by blowing pressurized air between the mandrel and the connection while directly pushing the connection in a direction opposite the mandrel.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of:

electrowelding the thus formed bell connection onto a generally cylindrical length of thermoplastic pipe.